THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. (SANGMA) : (a) to (e) The Social Security laws in regard to which the Labour Ministry has proposed changes are : Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1973, and Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The amendment Bills in respect of the first two Acts have already been introduced in the Parliament. Particulars of proposals for amendments to Workmen's Compensation Act have been furnished vide reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1952 dated 7-3-1994. Laws for welfare of Agricultural and Construction Workers are under examination in Government.

Wage Board for Child Labour

1959. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Minimum Wage Advisery Board for child labourers to ensure minimum wages to them ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) whether the children will legally be allowed to seek employment in all industries except those which are injurious to health ;

(d) if so. what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor ;

(e) to what extent it will adverseiy affect the health of children ;

(f) what are the recommendations of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board in this regard ; and

(g) what is the total number of children at present working in various industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is no specific law to allow children to seek employment. Various Central and State legislations prohibit child labour in factories, mines, plantations, shops and establishments as well as in areas of employment scheduled under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. In non-prohibited sectors of employment, conditions of work including health and safety aspects are required to be regulated under Part III of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986.

(f) No recommentation in this regard have been made by the Minimum Wages Advisory Board.

(g) As per 1981 census 13.6 million children (upto 14 years) were working in India in different areas of employment including the industrial sector.

Child Slavery

1960. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the "Times of India" of 20th January, 1994 that "India tops in child slavery" ;

(b) whether a large number of Nobel Laureates have issued a New Year message expressing disdain against this inhuman system of child labour in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that an estimate of nearly 200 million children are forced to work like adults ; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware (from the above news item) of the new year message by Nobel Laureates in respect of child labour in general.